

**Policy on genetically modified seeds**

2050. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have framed a policy on entry of multinationals in seed sector that would be going to market genetically modified seeds;
- (b) whether Government agree that such a seed does not enter India which may ultimately damage crops in the long run; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) All genetically modified seeds require evaluation of safety to the environment and safety to human and animal health under the Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules, 1989. No transgenic seed can enter into Indian Agriculture or in the Indian food chain without having their safety evaluated by the Government. If any transgenic seeds during evaluation is found to influence adversely the Indian environment including damage to any crop, such seed will not be allowed to enter into Indian Agriculture and will not be authorised to be used commercially whether it is developed by public sector or private sector, including multinational seed companies.

**Crop loss in Andhra Pradesh**

2051. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the estimated crop loss in the State of Andhra Pradesh on account of recent flood;
- (b) which are the districts affected on account of heavy rains; and
- (c) how many persons had died in the natural calamities and how much relief was provided to meet these natural calamities in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a)

[10 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the estimated crop loss on account of floods in river Godavari are 7557 hectares.

(b) 14 districts viz. Adilabad, Anantapur, Khammam, Krishna, Kurnool, Mehabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Visakhapatnam and Warangal.

(c) The State Government has reported that 61 persons have died due to natural calamities from June, 2000 onwards and that deaths due to natural calamities are covered by Apathbandhu Insurance Scheme. The next of kin of the deceased gets paid Rs. 1.00 lakh.

### **Shrimp and fish culture**

2052. SHRI BJ. PANDA:

SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have launched some units of shrimp and fish culture in the country;

(b) whether these projects are assisted by World Bank;

(c) if so, the States where these projects are being launched;

(d) whether any such project is being launched in Orissa during last five years;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the aid and assistance received for these projects;

(f) to what extent the private sector has been involved in shrimp production in that State; and

(g) the target set for shrimp production and export from Orissa during Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) A Project on Shrimp & Fish Culture is under implementation with assistance from the World Bank in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Under this World Bank Project shrimp sites are being